

In 1911, an area of 2,368 square kilometres was transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia by the State of New South Wales to become the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The city of Canberra, Australia's national capital, is located in the northern part of this area, 300 km south-west of Sydney and 650 km north-east of Melbourne by road. On 11 May 1989 self-government for the Territory was proclaimed; and this year on 11 May 1999 the ACT celebrated ten years of self-government.

The ACT is the smallest of Australia's six States and two Territories but has the highest population density, and is the only State or Territory without a sea border.

CLIMATE OF THE ACT

(Lat. 35 19'S, Long. 149 11'E, Height above MSL 571 metres)

The weather in the ACT in 1998 was wetter and warmer than the average. The first few months of the year were hot and dry (due to El Nino) and the winter was the wettest winter on record (influenced by La Nina).

	During 1998	Annual average
Annual rainfall	669.2mm	629.3mm
Days of rain	94	108
Thunderstorms	17	23
Average daily temperature	13.8°C	12.9°C
Temperature exceeded 30°C	49 days	29 days
Days of frost	61	100
Days of fog	25	44
Hours of sunshine per day	7.4	7.6
Extremes	During 1998	Long term
Air temperature—hottest	40.0°C (18 Jan)	42.2°C (1.2.68)
—coldest	-6.0°C (19 Jun)	-10.0°C (11.7.71)
Rainfall—highest month	118.6mm (Aug)	312.0 (Mar 1950)
—lowest month	3.6mm (Mar)	0.0mm (multiple)
Wind—highest gust	91km/h (7 Nov)	128km/h (24.11.57)

ACT IN COMPARISON TO AUSTRALIA

		Period	ACT	Australia
Area	'000 sq km	—	2.4	7 682.3
Demography				
Estimated resident population	'000	Jun 98	308.4	18 751.0
Annual population growth rate	%	1997–98	0.13	1.21
Permanent settlers	no.	1997–98	657	77 327
Rates per 1 000 mean population				
Births	no.	1997	13.6	13.6
Deaths	no.	1997	4.3	7.0
Marriages	no.	1997	6.0	5.8
Divorces	no.	1997	n.a.	2.8
Economy				
Gross State/Domestic Product				
Current prices	\$m	1997–98	12 111	564 705
Chain volume measures	\$m	1997–98	11 943	556 923
	%			
Consumer Price Index	change	1997–98	-0.7	0.0
Labour force				
		Period	ACT	Australia
Labour force annual average	'000	1997–98	169.6	9 260.6
Unemployment rate	%	1997–98	7.5	8.3
Participation rate	%	1997–98	71.4	63.1
Average weekly earnings				
Males—total earnings	\$	Aug qtr 98	833.0	721.0
Females—total earnings	\$	Aug qtr 98	612.0	474.0
Transport				
New motor vehicle registrations, increase from previous year	%	1997–98	44.1	16.3
Road fatalities	no.	1998	22	1 763

## AGRICULTURE

		1994–95	1995–96	1996–97
Number of establishments	no.	93	103	103
Area of crops	ha	–	–	250
Total area of establishments	ha	48 000	50 000	49 000
<b>Livestock</b>				
Cattle and calves	no.	12 780	13 689	13 309
Sheep and lambs	no.	77 741	72 670	83 529
Poultry	no.	269 875	210 500	196 948
Wool production—shorn wool, greasy	tonne	442	400	284
<b>Gross value of production</b>				
Crops (includes pasture & grasses)	\$'000	3 900	5 459	2 800
Livestock slaughterings	\$'000	2 700	2 336	1 900
Livestock products (includes wool and milk)	\$'000	6 500	6 851	6 500

## BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

<b>Construction activity—commenced</b>		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Residential building	\$m	287.4	257.9	196.4
Non-residential building	\$m	332.8	278.0	341.0
Engineering construction	\$m	145.2	121.3	147.8
<b>New residential building approvals</b>				
Houses	no.	1 208	1 224	1 101
Other residential	no.	857	727	293
<b>Moving annual median prices (at June)</b>		<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Established house	\$'000	155.8	148.8	156.3
Established unit/townhouse	\$'000	123.7	119.4	123.6

## CRIME

<b>Offences reported or becoming known to police</b>		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Offences against the person	no.	2 152	2 368	2 301
Burglary, fraud and theft	no.	25 213	23 873	24 278
Property damage	no.	7 279	7 880	7 991
Offences against good order	no.	2 715	4 653	3 981
All other offences	no.	1 094	3 016	2 345

## DEMOGRAPHY

		1993	1997	1998
Estimated resident population at 30 June	'000	299.3	308.0	308.4
<b>Vital events registered</b>		<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
Births	no.	4 415	4 396	4 208
Deaths	no.	1 114	1 300	1 334
Marriages	no.	1 753	1 654	1 873
Divorces(a)	no.	1 787	1 610	1 528
<b>Rates per 1 000 mean population</b>				
Births	no.	14.5	14.3	13.6
Deaths	no.	3.7	4.2	4.3
Marriages	no.	5.8	5.4	6.0
Divorces(a)	no.	5.9	5.2	n.a.

(a) Includes some divorces from persons resident outside the ACT

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available for general use by the community. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

Cover: Shouting Cube, Canberra Tourism and Events Cooperation

## For inquiries . . .

**CPI INFOLINE** For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074.

**DIAL-A-STATISTIC** For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index, call 1900 986 400. These calls cost 75c per minute.

**INTERNET** <http://www.abs.gov.au>

**LIBRARY** A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require.

## Why not subscribe?

By phone +61 1300 366 323

By fax +61 3 9615 7848

## Consultancy services

ABS offers consultancy services on a user pays basis to help you access published and unpublished data. Data already published and which can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Statistical methodological services are also available. Please contact:

City	By phone	By fax
Canberra	02 6252 6627	02 6207 0282
Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Darwin	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

Post Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616

Email [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics  
© Commonwealth of Australia 1999



2131480001992

**Recommended retail price: \$1.10**

ISSN 0815-3523

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Imports	\$m	9 597	11 958	20 711
Exports	\$m	15 593	8 954	12 618

## LABOUR FORCE

		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Labour force—original	'000	168.9	166.0	166.5
Employed persons	'000	156.3	152.8	153.9
Males	'000	82.1	79.9	80.7
Females	'000	74.2	72.9	73.2
Unemployed persons	'000	12.6	13.2	12.5
Males	'000	7.0	7.3	7.1
Females	'000	5.6	5.8	5.4
Unemployment rate	%	7.5	7.9	7.5
Males	%	7.8	8.4	8.1
Females	%	7.1	7.4	6.9
Participation rate	%	73.3	71.4	71.4
Males	%	80.4	78.2	78.1
Females	%	66.7	65.2	65.1
<b>Employment by industry</b>		<b>1995–96</b>	<b>1996–97</b>	<b>1997–98</b>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	'000	0.5	0.5	0.8
Mining	'000	0.1	0.2	0.1
Manufacturing	'000	4.9	5.0	4.5
Electricity, gas and water supply	'000	0.7	0.6	0.7
Construction	'000	9.1	10.3	8.5
Wholesale trade	'000	4.7	3.8	4.8
Retail trade	'000	20.0	20.0	21.6
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	'000	8.2	7.2	8.2
Transport and storage	'000	4.9	4.1	4.7
Communication services	'000	2.6	1.9	3.0
Finance and insurance	'000	3.5	2.9	3.5
Property and business services	'000	19.1	19.2	20.6
Government administration and defence	'000	39.2	39.6	35.3
Education	'000	14.2	13.2	12.7
Health and community services	'000	11.5	12.5	12.0
Cultural and recreational services	'000	4.4	5.4	6.6
Personal and other services	'000	6.6	6.7	7.3
<b>Average weekly earnings—trend</b>		<b>Aug 1996</b>	<b>Aug 1997</b>	<b>Aug 1998</b>
Males	\$	761	779	833
Females	\$	552	580	612
Persons	\$	653	680	725
<b>Industrial disputes</b>		<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Working days lost	'000	20.9	2.1	5.1
Working days lost per 1 000 employees	no.	148	15	36

## MANUFACTURING

		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Persons employed	'000	3.9	4.0	3.9
Wages and salaries paid	\$m	122	124	120
Turnover	\$m	534	602	594

## MEDICARE SERVICES

Average number of services		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Males	no.	n.a.	7.0	7.1
Females	no.	n.a.	10.8	10.8

## PRICES

Consumer price index (Canberra)—percentage change		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
All groups	%	0.9	0.8	-0.7
Food	%	1.7	2.5	2.7
Tobacco and alcohol	%	6.4	2.8	1.7
Clothing	%	-0.1	-0.2	0.1
Housing	%	1.2	-5.8	-10.5
Household equipment and operation	%	1.7	1.6	0.4
Transport	%	4.7	2.0	-0.8
Health and personal care	%	3.1	5.2	3.7
Recreation and education	%	0.3	1.6	2.6
Average retail prices—cents		Jun 96	Jun 97	Jun 98
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	106	112	115
Bread, white loaf, supermarket sales	750g	185	193	201
Rump steak	1 kg	1 097	1 043	1 124
Coffee	150g jar	571	638	649
Beer, full strength, public bar	285 ml glass	167	175	178
Petrol, unleaded	1 litre	76.5	77.4	73.8

## PRIVATE FINANCE

		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Bank deposits at 30 June	\$m	4 442	5 120	5 346
Lending commitments				
Housing finance for owner occupation	\$m	947	982	929
Personal	\$m	602.0	697.3	730.5
Commercial	\$m	1 173.9	1 235.3	1 314.7
Lease	\$m	85.8	88.7	151.8

## PUBLIC FINANCE

Revenues		1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
Taxes	\$m	514	571	581
Grants	\$m	546	557	563
Other	\$m	110	104	119
Outlays				
Current	\$m	1 102	1 183	1 191
Capital	\$m	133	128	139
Deficit adjusted for net advances	\$m	15	25	-25

## RETAIL TRADE

Turnover		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Food retailing	\$m	945.4	947.7	964.3
Department stores	\$m	289.0	281.2	289.3
Clothing and soft good retailing	\$m	181.6	180.0	168.4
Household goods retailing	\$m	237.7	275.2	311.3
Recreational goods retailing	\$m	147.3	138.9	149.3
Other retailing	\$m	192.7	237.3	291.5
Hospitality and service industries	\$m	365.8	377.6	405.9
Total	\$m	2 359.1	2 438.2	2 579.5

## TOURISM

Visitor arrivals		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Domestic	'000	1 481.1	1 303.0	1 525.0
International	'000	258.4	277.0	192.1
Hotels, motels and guest house (June qtr)				
Establishments at 30 June	no.	n.a.	49	49
Guest rooms at 30 June	no.	n.a.	4 168	4 118
Bed spaces at 30 June	no.	n.a.	12 625	12 698
Room occupancy rates	%	n.a.	55.2	59.1
Takings	\$'000	n.a.	20 757	22 324

## TRANSPORT

New motor vehicle registrations		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Passenger vehicles	no.	11 054	10 375	15 403
Light commercial vehicles	no.	957	1 063	1 114
Trucks	no.	82	67	55
Total motor vehicles	no.	12 133	11 554	16 645
Motor cycles	no.	341	452	503
Motor vehicles on register		1995	1996	1997
Passenger vehicles	'000	156.6	161.8	169.3
Light commercial vehicles	'000	17.5	17.2	17.5
Trucks	'000	4.1	3.8	3.8
Total motor vehicles	'000	178.8	183.5	191.2
Motor cycles	'000	5.0	5.4	6.0

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Annual periods shown as, for example, 1998 refer to the year ended 31 December 1998; those shown as, for example 1997-98 refer to the year ended June 1998. Values shown in Australian dollars (\$). Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

°C	— degrees Celsius	mm	— millimetres
\$m	— dollar millions	n.a.	— not available
g	— grams	no.	— number
ha	— hectares	%	— per cent
km/h	— kilometres per hour	qtr	— quarter
ml	— millilitres	sq km	— square kilometres